

Appl. No. 10/717,298
Amdt. dated November 16, 2005
Reply to Office action of May 16, 2005

In the Drawings:

Please amend FIGs. 10 and 11 to add the notation "Prior Art". Markup sheets and replacement sheets follow.

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REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 were present in the application. Claims 1-8 are amended herein. New claims 9-17 are added. Claims 2, 3/2, 4 and 5/2 have been indicated to include allowable subject matter.

A substitute specification is submitted herewith to provide a new abstract and to address the headings changes that the Examiner raised. We wish to thank the Examiner for providing appropriate heading suggestions. The substitute specification contains no new matter.

Claims 2, 2/3, 4 and 5/2 are indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. These claims have been rewritten and accordingly are submitted to be allowable.

The Examiner objects to the drawings, asking that FIGS. 10 and 11 be labeled as --Prior Art--. Applicants have submitted drawings amendments herein to add the Prior Art label to these drawings.

Claim 1 is object to as not having the phrase "comprising". Claim 1 as amended herein does now include the phrase "comprising".

The multiple dependent are amended somewhat to conform to U.S. practice. That is, claims 6, 7 and 8 are amended to depend

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only on claims 2-5, adding new claims 9, 10 and 11 to retain the dependency of original claims 7/6, 8/6 and 8/7.

Claim 4 was also indicated as allowable. Allowable claim 4/2 is covered by claim 4 depending on claim 2, after rewriting claim 2 to independent form. Allowable claim 4/1 is provided by new claim 14, which is the combination of claim 1 and 4 as originally filed, with minor amendments to address the Examiner's other objections. Original claim 4 is amended to depend only on claim 2.

Original claims 1 and 3/1 were rejected as being anticipated by Itoh, U.S. patent 5,978,623 (Canon Kabushiki Kaisha). Applicants respectfully traverse. What is disclosed by the Itoh document is different from the claimed present invention, as Itoh does not, for example, teach the protruding part 94 (or 104, 114, 124, etc.) of the present invention. Also, the phrase in claim 1 of the "magnetic plate has a covering part for covering a portion of the peripheral face of the developing agent holder in a range from the magnetic plate to the region opposing the developing agent controlling member" recites something not shown in Itoh. Indeed, the rejection does not address this language, of the covering part covering a region opposing the developing agent controlling member. Itoh does not show such a concept. Still further, the meaning of "opposing" in this claim teaches something not shown by Itoh.

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Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 is allowable, as well as its dependent claims.

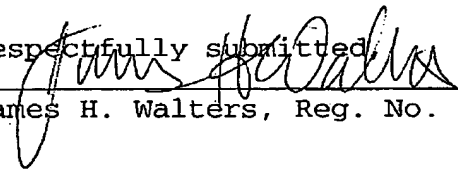
New claims 13-17 are provided, which represent the subject matter original claims 3/1, 5/1, 6/1, 7/1 and 8/1. These claims are also believed allowable.

Claim 5/1 was rejected as obvious over Itoh in view of Inami et al (U.S. 6,038,414). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner use Inami et al to show the regulating member is an elastic body in contact with the developing sleeve. Inami et al do not add any teaching that would overcome the argument that Itoh does not show a covering part for covering a portion of the peripheral face of the developing agent holder in a range from the magnetic plate to the region opposing the developing agent controlling member. So, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5/1 (now new claim 14) is also allowable.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicant's attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted


James H. Walters, Reg. No. 35,731

Customer number 802
DELLETT AND WALTERS
P.O. Box 82788
Portland, Oregon 97282-0788 US
(503) 224-0115
DOCKET: I-208

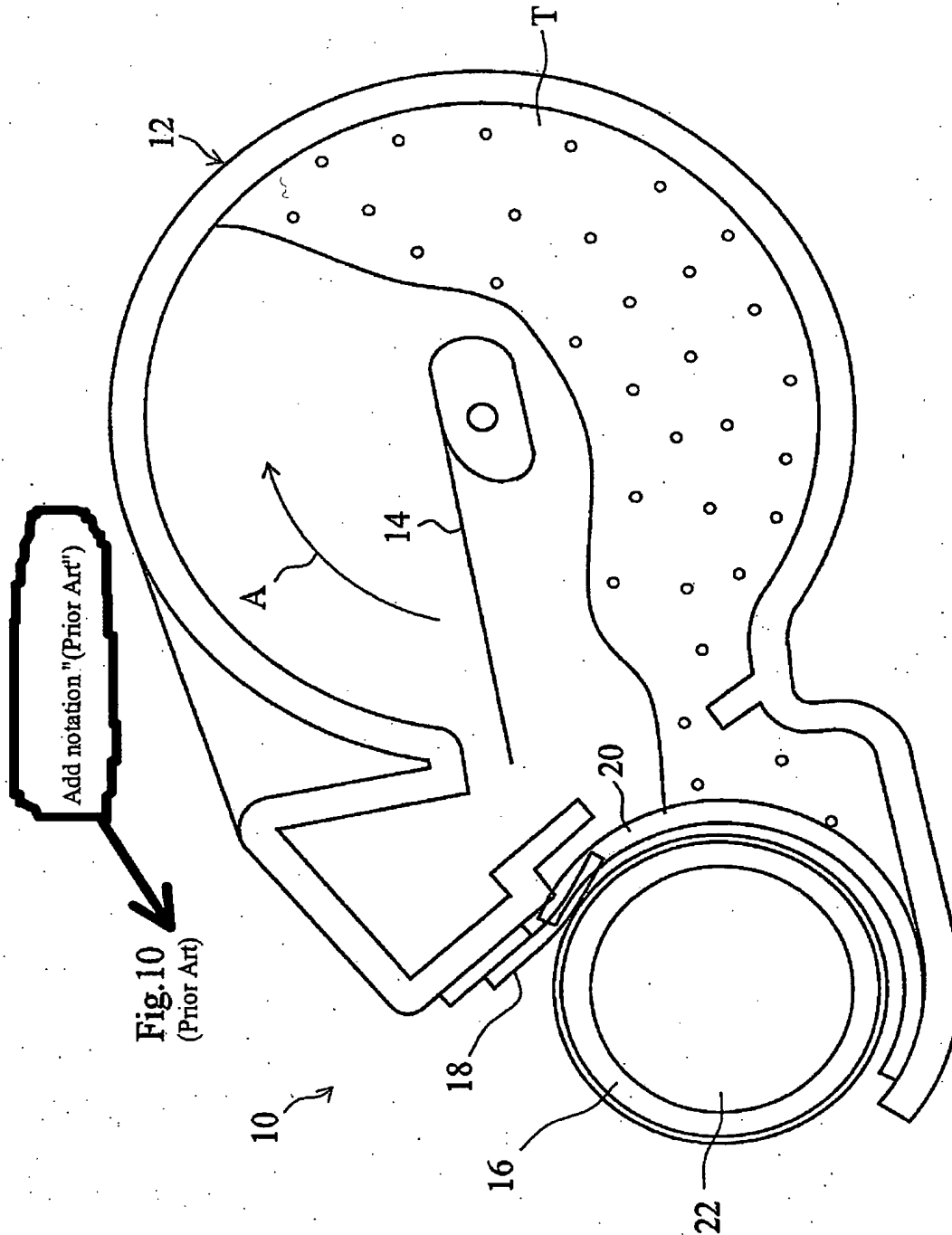
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Drawing Markup sheet



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